

Introduction to the Auto-Enrollment Notice

What Is the Purpose of This Notice?

The purpose of the auto-enrollment notice is to inform people with Medicare and full Medicaid coverage about the change in their drug coverage from Medicaid to Medicare. The notice explains that these individuals will be enrolled in a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan if they don't join a plan by the end of the year, what plan Medicare will enroll them in, and their costs in the plan. It will also notify them that their Medicaid isn't creditable prescription drug coverage. The notice includes a one-page letter, and two pages of questions and answers about Medicare prescription drug coverage.

Who Will Get This Notice?

Medicare will mail the notice to people with Medicare and full Medicaid coverage. Please note that this mailing is limited to those who currently get their Medicare benefits through the Original Medicare Plan. The remaining individuals are enrolled in Medicare Advantage Plans and PACE organizations, and will be notified by those entities.

When Will People Get This Notice?

The notices will begin mailing the end of October 2005 and on a monthly basis thereafter.

What Should People Do Next?

People who get this notice have the opportunity to join a Medicare drug plan in their area. The "Medicare & You 2006" handbook includes information about the specific drug plans available in each area. The handbook will be mailed to the households of people with Medicare in October.

If people who have Medicare and full Medicaid coverage don't join a plan on their own by December 31, 2005, Medicare will enroll them in a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan. This way, they don't lose a day of prescription drug coverage once their Medicaid drug coverage ends on December 31, 2005.

If people have questions about the information in the notice, direct them to do the following:

- Look at their "Medicare & You 2006" handbook in October.
- Visit www.medicare.gov on the web.
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.
- Call their State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) for free personalized health insurance counseling. See the "Medicare & You 2006" handbook or call 1-800-MEDICARE for their telephone number.



7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

<Beneficiary Full Name>

<Address>

<City, State Zip>

HICN <1234>

<file creation date>

Dear <Beneficiary Full Name>,

Please read this letter carefully because your prescription drug coverage is changing. You are getting this letter because our records show that you have Medicare and that you were eligible for Medicaid in all or part of this year.

Starting January 1, 2006, Medicare will help pay for your prescription drugs instead of Medicaid. If you continue to be eligible for Medicaid, Medicaid will still pay for your health care costs that Medicare doesn't cover.

To get Medicare prescription drug coverage, you will need to choose and join a Medicare drug plan. Look in your "Medicare & You 2006" handbook mailed to you in October for a list of the Medicare drug plans available in your area. Compare Medicare drug plans and join a plan that works for you.

If you do not join a Medicare drug plan by December 31, 2005, Medicare will enroll you in <Organization name>'s <Name of plan> and your coverage will begin January 1, 2006. With this Medicare-approved drug plan, you will pay

- \$0 for your monthly prescription drug plan premium,
- \$0 for your yearly prescription drug plan deductible, and
- <insert LIS copayment amount> copayment when you fill a prescription covered by the plan.

Please read the attached questions and answers for more information about your new prescription drug coverage and what to do now. For more information about <Name of plan>, call <Plan phone> or visit <Plan website> on the web.

If you need help understanding this letter, please show it to a family member, friend, case manager, or someone you trust. You can also call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) or your State Health Insurance Assistance Program for help. TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

Sincerely,

Mark McClellan, M.D., Ph.D.

Administrator

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Para obtener una copia de este aviso en español, llame gratis al 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). Los usuarios de TTY deben llamar al 1-877-486-2048.

Important Questions and Answers about Your New Drug Coverage

What should I do now?

Read the materials your plan sends you about the drug plan Medicare will enroll you in if you don't join a plan by December 31, 2005. If you don't like the plan Medicare will enroll you in, you can get information about the other Medicare drug plans available in your area. Compare the plans and join a Medicare drug plan that works for you. You should find out which plans cover the prescriptions you take and what pharmacies you can use to fill prescriptions. You can begin enrolling in a drug plan November 15, 2005. Remember, if you don't join a plan by December 31, 2005, Medicare will enroll you in a plan.

- To learn more about other Medicare drug plans available in your area
 - look at the "Medicare & You 2006" handbook which Medicare mailed to you in October for lists of the specific plans.
 - look at www.medicare.gov on the web and get personalized drug plan information. If you don't have a computer, your local library or senior center may be able to help you look at this information.
 - call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.
 - call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) for free personalized health insurance counseling. See your copy of the "Medicare & You 2006" handbook or call 1-800-MEDICARE for their telephone number.
 - look for Medicare-related events in your community. Look for information about events in your local newspaper or listen for information on the radio.

What is Medicare prescription drug coverage?

Medicare prescription drug coverage is insurance. Private companies will provide the coverage through Medicare drug plans. There may be many Medicare drug plans available in your area to choose from.

Medicare drug plans will help you pay for both brand-name and generic drugs you need. Most plans will have a list of drugs covered by the plan. The drug list may not include your specific drug. However, in most cases, a similar drug that is safe and effective should be available.

Drug plans must contract with pharmacies in your area. Check with the plan to make sure the pharmacies in the plan are convenient to you. Some plans also allow you to get your prescriptions through the mail.

What are the differences between Medicare and Medicaid?

- Medicaid is the program in your state that pays health care costs for people with limited income and resources. It may be called something different in your state.
- Medicare is the federal health insurance program for people age 65 or older, people under age 65 with certain disabilities, and people of all ages with End-Stage Renal Disease.

Medicare will continue to help pay for your health care costs. And if you continue to be eligible for Medicaid, Medicaid will still pay for your health care costs that Medicare doesn't cover (including prescriptions in some limited cases). If you aren't sure if you are still eligible for Medicaid, contact your state Medicaid program to find out.

Can I keep my Medicaid drug coverage?

No. As of January 1, 2006, Medicaid will not continue the drug coverage it currently provides. Some state Medicaid programs may cover the few prescriptions that won't be covered under Medicare prescription drug coverage. But even if your state Medicaid program covers a few prescriptions, this coverage alone won't be as good as standard Medicare prescription drug coverage.

What if I have other prescription drug coverage, besides Medicaid?

If you have, or are eligible for other types of prescription coverage, read all the materials you get from your insurer or plan provider. Examples of other types of prescription drug coverage include coverage from an employer or union, TRICARE, the Department of Veteran's Affairs, or a Medigap policy. Talk to your benefits administrator, insurer, or plan provider. You may not need to join a Medicare drug plan.

Note: Prescription drug coverage does NOT include doctor samples, discount cards, Medicare-approved discount cards with or without the \$600 credit, free clinics, or drug discount websites.

Can I join a different Medicare drug plan?

Yes. Even if you don't join a Medicare drug plan by December 31, 2005, and Medicare enrolls you in a drug plan, you can switch plans any time, with the new coverage effective the next month.

If you want to learn about other plans you can join, look at your "Medicare & You 2006" handbook, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227), or visit www.medicare.gov, for information about other Medicare drug plans available in your area. You can also call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) for free personalized health insurance counseling.

To join a different Medicare drug plan, call the new plan to find out how to join. Joining a different plan will disenroll you from your current plan.

Note: If you join a different plan, you may have to pay a small monthly premium instead of \$0. If you decide to join a different plan that has a higher advertised premium, you may have to pay the difference in the cost of these two plan premiums yourself.

What if I don't want Medicare prescription drug coverage?

If you don't want to join, and you don't want Medicare to enroll you in a Medicare drug plan, call 1-800-MEDICARE and tell them you don't want to join. But, keep in mind that you pay nothing to stay in the plan. If you drop this coverage and need prescription drugs, Medicare will not pay until you join a plan. If you keep this plan or join another, you have peace of mind knowing the coverage is there if you need it.

However, if you tell Medicare you don't want to join a Medicare drug plan, you could have no prescription drug coverage as of January 1, 2006. You can change your mind and join a Medicare drug plan at any time, but you may have to pay a penalty if you join after May 15, 2006.

